

REMARKS

The Specification

Informalities

The Examiner's specific comments as to informalities in the specification (Office Action at 3) have been addressed by amending the specification accordingly.

The Claims:

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 1 and 15 because of informalities, which Applicant submits have been corrected without adding new matter. Reconsideration of the objections is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner specified that claims 3, 9, 18, 19, 21, and 24 would be allowable over the cited art if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner's reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter indicate that the prior art does not teach or suggest having a second cold trap operatively connected with and positioned downstream of the first cold trap. Office Action at page 5.

Applicant has added claims in accordance with the Examiner's comments. These claims include claims 25-34 that teach a second cold trap connected downstream and with a first cold trap. Because the Examiner has noted that this arrangement is not anticipated or suggested by the prior art, and due to other novel features of the claims, a Notice of Allowance is requested for these claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 4-8, 15-17, 20, 22, and 23 as obvious over Schmitt et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,099,649 (“Schmitt”). Applicant respectfully disagrees that the cited claims are unpatentable for the reasons set forth by the Examiner because, as explained below, Schmitt teaches away from the present invention.

As the Examiner notes, Schmitt discloses a trapping system with the following elements,

in order from upstream to downstream: a process chamber; a hot trap; a heater; a vacuum pump with associated heater, or self-heated pump; one or more cold traps downstream from the hot trap; a burn box; and a plurality of valves to isolate and/or divert flow through either, both, or none of the cold traps. Office Action at 3. The Examiner reasons that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a burn box as another hot trap and to use isolation valves for the purpose of achieving efficient trapping and recovery of waste materials for recycling, and for subsequent repairing and/or replacing components. *Id.*

The very depiction by the Examiner of the invention disclosed and taught in Schmitt demonstrates that Schmitt teaches away from the present invention. The present invention places the vacuum pump directly downstream from the process chamber. *See Application Disclosure (as filed)* at 4:14 (“the pump [is] connected directly to the process chamber.”). The claims have been amended to clarify that the hot trap is directly downstream of the processing chamber.

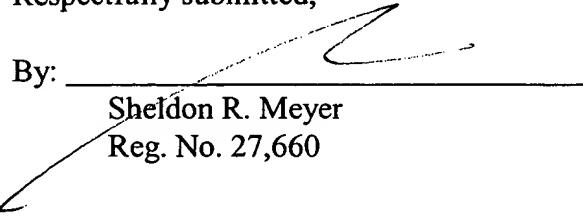
In contrast to the configuration of the present invention, as the Examiner noted, Schmitt discloses a hot trap—not a pump—directly connected to the process chamber, with the pump further downstream from the hot trap. *See Schmitt, Fig. 1, e.g.* The burn box, denoted a hot trap by the Examiner, also is not directly connected to a vacuum pump that is directly connected with the process chamber, as is the hot trap in the present invention. Instead, the burn box is connected with a cold trap, which is downstream of the pump. The Examiner offers no *prima facie* case for obviousness of the configuration disclosed and claimed in the present application. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

The examiner rejects claims 10-13 as unpatentable over Schmitt in view of Kumada et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,405,445 (“Kumada”). Claims 10-13 all depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and therefore they are patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons stated above in connection with the rejection based on Schmitt, which reasoning is incorporated herein in full be reference.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Date: 11/20/84

Respectfully submitted,

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